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BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

(Affiliated British Philatelic Association & Philatelic Congress of Great Britain)

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer:

P. T. SAUNDERS

Caymans Cottage, Ridgmont, Bletchley, Bucks.

Tel. Ridgmont 255

Hon. Secretary, Sales Circuit :

W. H. H. CROW.

90, Brading Crescent, Wanstead, London, E.11.

Hon. Editor:

B. B. BENWELL.

"Ridgeway", World's End Lane, Cheisfield, Farnborough, Kent.

Hon. Librarian:

Miss ROSE TITFORD.

Committee:

B. B. BENWELL. L. E. BRITNOR. G. W. GROVES,

F. MYERS, Miss ROSE TITFORD.

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OBJECTS: TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps of the British West Indies comprising the following colonies and dependencies:

ANTIGUA	CAYMAN ISLANDS	ST. LUCIA
BAHAMAS	DOMINICA	ST. VINCENT
BARBADOS	GRENADA	TRINIDAD & BERMUDA
BERMUDA	JAMAICA	TOBAGO
BRITISH GUIANA	LEEWARD ISLANDS	TURKS & CAICOS
BRITISH	MONTSERRAT	ISLANDS
HONDURAS	ST. KITTS-NEVIS	VIRGIN ISLANDS

TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features (including 'Opinions' Service and a 'Wants' Section) which it is hoped will widen the knowledge of members.

TO operate a SALES CIRCUIT to enable members to dispose of their surplus material.

MEMBERSHIP : TO be WORLD-WIDE in scope and open to all interested in the stamps or postal history of the abovementioned colonies and dependencies whether they be advanced or new collectors. The ANNUAL subscription to be 10/6d (\$1.50 non-sterling countries) due 1st FEBRUARY. Cheques and P.O. to be made payable to "B.W.I. STUDY CIRCLE".

Geographical distribution of membership.

LONDON (31)

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Bedfordshire	2	Essex	5	Nottinghamshire	1
Buckinghamshire	2	Gloucestershire	5	Shropshire	2
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Cheshire	1	Hertfordshire	2	Staffordshire	1
Cornwall	2	Kent	4	Surrey	15
Derbyshire	5	Lancashire	5	Sussex	7
Devonshire	6	Middlesex	3	Warwickshire	3
Dorset	1	Norfolk	2	Wiltshire	3
Co. Durham	1	Northamptonshire	2	Yorkshire	17
Isle of Man	1	Northern Ireland	1	Scotland	7
		Wales	3		

OVERSEAS (45)

Australia	5	B.W.I.	3	Canada	8
Lebanon	1	Netherlands	1	U.S.A.	23
Tasmania	1			South Africa	8

Total membership 197



From the plan included in the prospectus of the above Exhibition published in November, 1958, it will be observed that space has been set aside for Society exhibits which, incidentally, will not be eligible for competition. Provisional application has been made on behalf of our Circle for two frames (32 standard album pages) and members, including those who intend to show individually, who are willing to give their support by loaning not more than three pages of material of high standard are requested to advise our Hon. Secretary as soon as possible. The first issue of the Exhibition Magazine is now available which gives up-to-date news of progress since the publication of the prospectus. It includes the names of the International Jury and an article entitled "A Look of London" in which stamp designs with a London background are described. A subscription of 30s will ensure the receipt of this magazine and subsequent issues, the Exhibition Catalogue, the final Report and an entrance ticket valid for the first day or any other day, a commemorative cover posted on the opening day and any other exhibition souvenirs which may be issued. For an additional 10s a season ticket for the duration of the exhibition will be available. Members who have not already subscribed the minimum of 30s are advised to do so without delay. Remittances should be sent to the Organising Secretary, 13, Goodwins Court, St. Martins Lane, London, W.C.2.

41st Philatelic (Jubilee) Congress of Great Britain held at Torquay, Devon, 9th—12th June, 1959

A large number of members and delegates attended this event which was organised by the Congress Permanent Executive Committee. The proceedings followed the usual pattern so well known to those who join the gathering year after year. The chair was ably taken by Capt. B. Rogers-Tillstone and once again high praise is due to Ernest Hugen for the immense amount of work he carried out. The banquet was one of the best held for many years and the rooms made available at Torre Abbey for Study Circle meetings were outstanding for their setting and comfort. The customary meeting of our Circle took place on the Wednesday evening and was attended by 12 members and 3 visitors. Following a warm welcome by our President who took the chair many interesting discussions took place. The following members brought along items from their respective collections for our enjoyment :

Dr. N. Garrard: **Bahamas**: An early 'BAHAMAS SHIP LETTER' (2 lines); a strip of 4 1d. c.c. perf 12½ used on cover to New Jersey; a series of covers with the 4d. no wmk. perf 13 addressed to New York with additional agents' mark of Saunders & Son, Nassau: 1863/80, 6d. S.G. 29 used on cover to New York bearing 'CANNOT BE FOUND' mark in black.

G. W. Groves : Examples of British stamps used in **Antigua** (A02), **Grenada** (A15) and **St. Vincent** (A10); a **Dominica** pre-adhesive with date below; 1879, 4d. blue varieties including the malformed 'CE' in 'PENCE'; **St. Lucia**; selection of village postmarks.

Col. O. M. Harris: **Bahamas**; 1863/80 values mint and used at Barbados; 1852/55 issue mint blocks of 4 with shades and the ½d. yellow green mint.

K. J. Manning: Navy List of 1744 giving names of many of the ships which constituted the West Indian Packets. Various pre-adhesives included a 1664 letter from **St. Christopher**; **Antigua**; a Portsmouth Ship Letter of 1781; 1863, 1d. wmk star, mint block of 4 showing re-entries Nos. 8 & 20; a letter addressed to Austria from Jamaica, missent to Antigua with 'Missent to Antigua' in violet (Note: This is **not** the same type as the Jamaica missent mark and is not recorded at the G.P.O. London.)

P. T. Saunders: **Cayman Islands**: A series of interesting covers commentated with the story behind them.

E. V. Toeg: **Leeward Islands**: Covers and pieces including the 1890 set on 1 cover. Covers used from Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands; the 2½d with the St. Kitts 'A12' killer duplex on a 4d. registered envelope.

W. A. Townsend: **British Guiana**: A letter from the Colonial Secretary to the Governor of British Guiana stating that the Postmaster-General was wholly out of 1c. stamps and nearly out of the 2c, attached to which was a die proof of

the 2c. suggested to be used; Covers showing various accountancy marks including the rare 'PA 1d.' in red; 1856, 4c. used on cover 'Plantation Caledonia Feb, 7 1856' (the earliest recorded date) where 4c. was paid for local postage to Demerara - the 4c. stamp was affixed there and cancelled 'Fe 8 1856'; a 'DEMERARA SHIPLETTER' (2 lines) dated Nov. 24 1879; British stamps used in British Guiana on covers; 1863. 4c. die proof in black with tablet impression of 6 other denominations.

SALES CIRCUIT

The Hon. Sec. of the Sales Circuit still urgently needs good material for the packets. Members wishing to dispose of their surplus items should mount them on sheets the same size as this bulletin leaving ½" margin on the left hand side.

All sheets should be sent to W. H. H. Crow Esq., 90 Brading Crescent, Wanstead, London, E.11.

AUTUMN MEETING

This will be held in the meeting room of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, at 41, Devonshire Place, W.1. on Saturday, October 24th, at 2.30 p.m. In accordance with custom members attending are enjoined to bring along some pages from their collections for display and a note of any queries they wish to raise. Incidentally, visitors are most welcome.

WANTS

Members who can supply any of these should send them, quoting the price asked, to the Hon. Secretary for onward transmission. If the member requiring them desires to purchase, a remittance in favour of 'B.W.I. Study Circle' should be sent to the Hon. Secretary and the amount (less 10 per cent. and postage) will be remitted to the owner.

(Note: S.G. Nos. except where otherwise stated M= Mint. U= Used)

NOTES AND QUERIES

It will be appreciated that our Bulletin constitutes the vital link between us and is mainly dependent upon a steady flow of contributions from members. These may either afford information or raise points upon which enlightenment is sought, and it will be helpful if S.G. numbers are quoted wherever possible. **In this connection it is essential that all communications are addressed to the Hon. Editor in order that publicity can be given in the Bulletin subject to his discretion.**

ANTIGUA

"I have in my possession a copy of the 1d. red (S.G.43) clearly postmarked with a c.d.s. 'G.P.O. Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. 8.30 a.m. JU II 12'. I shall be glad if any member can explain why this stamp was used in Trinidad."

(Contributed by Mr. G. W. Bowman, U.S.A.)

ANTIGUA

I have read with interest the exchange of comments by Mr. Toeg and Mr. Howe in Bulletins Nos. 21 and 22 regarding First Flight covers from Antigua. Perhaps I can be of some help in this direction,

I have three First Flight covers from Antigua postmarked St. John's September 26, 1929. Two of these covers are addressed to San Juan, Porto Rico. Both have the light blue airmail label mentioned by Mr. Toeg, the postage is 9d. and both are backstamped San Juan, P.R. Sept. 26. 1929 7PM. The third is addressed to Chicago, III. It is very definitely 'used to order' and is handstamped 'First Air Mail - Antigua To U.S.A.' September 1929 in lieu of the blue label. It is not backstamped so I have no idea when it arrived in Chicago. The postage on this cover is 1/4½d.

(Contributed by Mr. C. D. Paton, U.S.A.)

BAHAMAS

New Post Offices

DRIGGS HILL, Andros Island. First mail dated July 16, 1959. SCRUB HILL, Long Island. First mail dated July 17, 1959. Both the above are using a large single-circle TRD (38mm.)

General Information

The present G.P.O. staff nor the older staff have any knowledge or record of any post office at WHALE CAY or LITTLE WHALE CAY.

OLD PLACE and THURSTONS were both on Abaco.

Last day covers from LIGNUM VITAE CAY were dated 11 July 1959, being replaced by a post office at BULLOCKS HARBOUR (7 miles away on Bamboo Cay, Berry Islands) the same day, using a double-circle TRD.

DEEP CREEK, Andros, is using a new large steel die postmark.

ROCK SOUND, Eleuthera, during the absence of the old steel die postmark, has been sending mail to Nassau uncanceled, for datestamping there, except Eleuthera mail, which is cancelled with the only TRD available, - one of three straight lines (unframed), reading COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE/DATE/ROCK SOUND in blue ink. The G.P.O. ordered from the U.K. in February 1959, a large number of steel die datestamps, including one for Rock Sound. West End and the newer post offices, and are reported en route to Nassau (July 59).

For several reasons, the new post office at RIDING POINT, Grand Bahamas has been further delayed in opening. Troops at Nassau still have no FPO.

I have been unable to verify a previous report of a new TRD for DEEP CREEK, Andros, between use of the small boxed TRD and issuance of the new large steel-die postmark. It is believed the report was erroneous.

Recent purchase of the Dr. Walter Hess accumulation of Bahamas postmarks has brought to light new information, such as an unreported double-oval TRD of ROLLE TOWN, and a single-oval TRD of FARMERS CAY (OCT. 1946). In steel-dies, CHEROKEE SOUND in Gisburn's Type 9, & many in Type 19, including LOWER BOGUE.

A new large lot of steel-die datestamps has reached the islands, a cover just in from PLEASANT BAY with its new datestamp is dated - AUG 91 ! MOORES ISLAND is using a large 30mm steel datestamp now, as also is DEEP CREEK, ANDROS.

A Resolution pending in the Bahamas House of Assembly calls for a new sub-p.o., parcellpost & airfreight building at OAKES FIELD, but some Members want to see it built at the west end of FORT CHARLOTTE (both on New Providence Island). Neither may happen !

QUESTION: can any reader verify that there was in fact a post office named THURSTON ? A village existed on Abaco by that name, but no one seems to have reported owning an example of a postmark. My curiosity is prompted by a 1d. 1935 Jubilee in the Dr. Walter Hess lot, neatly and clearly reading THURSTON in a steel-die postmark, which under a magnifying glass proves to be ARthurstown. Is it possible that the inclusion of THURSTON in collectors' lists of Bahamas post offices arose on the basis of such a postmark ?

(Contributed by G. J. Raymond.)

Correction: In Bulletin No. 22 (July 1959) pages 48 and 49, owing to a printing error, the contributors' names to the notes on the Bahamas were transposed. Mr. M. Steward wrote the notes on "The George VI. First Colours of the 1d, 2d, 2½d and 3d. Values", whereas the article on the "New Post Offices" was contributed by Mr. G. J. Raymond. Our apologies are extended to both gentlemen. Editor.

BARBADOS

1882 October 6th ½d Postcard with inscription in three lines at the top in black reading :

POST (Arms) CARD
BARBADOS
THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE

Size 5" x 3" on stout white card with printed stamp in upper right hand corner.
Stamp - Queen Victoria's head printed in brown (shades). Printer: De la Rue & Co.

1d Postcard with inscription in four lines at the top reading:

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE

BARBADOS (BARBADE)

POST (Arms) CARD

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE

Size 5½" x 3½" on stout white card with printed stamp in upper right hand corner.
Stamp - Queen Victoria's head printed in carmine (shades). Printer: De la Rue & Co.

1892 (January?) lid Reply Paid Postcard as type 5 (Bulletin No. 22 page 49) but surcharged in elongated block capitals "ONE PENNY" in violet across the lower tablet of the stamp.

1892 (9th March ?) 1½d Postcard as type 4 (Bulletin No. 22 page 49) but surcharged in elongated block capitals "ONE PENNY" in violet across the lower tablet of the stamp.

(Contributed by Mr. B. B. Benwell.)

BARBADOS

I wish to make further reference to the discussions in Bulletin Nos. 21 and 22 regarding the locally-printed "UPU" Barbados postcards of which I have seven mint copies of several diverse types. They are in three sizes:

Large — 5 5/8" x 3 5/8"

Medium — 4 7/8" x 3 1/2"

Small — 4 1/2" x 3 1/16"

The board is of medium weight and white except for one "small" on much heavier board and another "small" on off white medium board.

The top line of printing on one card of each size is in sans-serif type, whereas other examples of the "medium" and "small" sizes have all type with serifs.

Of the "all serif" printings, the "medium" size cards have no stops except after the final word, whereas the "small" size cards have a comma after UNIVERSELLE, stops after BARBADOS and BARBADE and no stop after the final word.

One "medium" card carries S.G. Nos. 72 and 73: another apparently has had two stamps removed. Two of the "small" cards (not including the one on heavy board) carry single copies of No. 73.

In short, these examinations disclose three sizes, three printings, three types of board and two frankings.

(Contributed by Mr. H. M. Shilstone.)

Mr. Shilstone later reports that he now has two more copies of the "medium" size cards similar to those described in the sixth paragraph, opposite page, except that each has a stop after BARDADE. Does this indicate a fourth printing ? - Editor.

JAMAICA

I am endeavouring to collate information regarding the "Commercial Rooms" cachet in use from about 1823 to 1829, and the later one inscribed "Commercial Buildings." I should appreciate any details members can give me in this respect, particularly dates of letters bearing these marks.

The earlier mark consists of the words "COMMERCIAL ROOMS," unframed, in a straight line 67 mm. long, and in serif capitals 3 mm. high. (I have a copy on a letter dated 18th July 1826).

The later mark consists of a circle 28 mm. in diameter, with "Kingston Jamaica" in two lines across the centre, and "Commercial" curved above and "Buildings" curved below, all in serif capitals 2 mm. high. (The copies I have are dated 20th March 1833, and 4th June 1833).

It would seem that, postally, these buildings performed a function similar to that of the Jamaica Coffee House, Cornhill, at about the same period. Letters could be handed in there for despatch overseas as Ship Letters. The Buildings, however, probably housed one or more business agencies; and, for a certain period at any rate, letters sent by that method received one of these special handstamps. Further information about the use and period of operation of the Buildings would also be interesting.

(Contributed by Mr. L. E. Britnor.)

JAMAICA

Can any member supply information about the Jamaican Obliterator AO1 Type B? First I would like to know how many different dies were used. I have one lettered 2C which is new to me. Secondly, I would like to know the earliest date of use of any or all of the AO1 Type B obliterations. The earliest I have is 23 May, 1859 for the 2B variety. If anyone can throw some light on the method of lettering that would produce a 2C or has other examples of this obliterator, I would be grateful.

(Contributed by Mr. Robert Topaz.)

JAMAICA

The AO1 type B obliterator according to Nicholson was sent out in duplicate 30/4/1859 with the index No's 1B 2B and was out of use in 1870. Personally, I have No 2 without any letter, also 2A and 2B - 1 have never heard of, or seen a 2C. I have notes of the E.K. date for 1B as 23/5/59 and of the E.K. date for 2B as 26/5/59.

I have in my collection, covers or pieces with the full date etc., as follows: -
2 without any letter 15/8/59 12/12/59 8/1/64

2A 6/11/69

2B 15/3/70

This is all the information I can give you and I hope that it will be of some help to Mr. Topaz!

(Contributed by Mr. G. W. Collett, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L.)

LEEWARD ISLANDS

With reference to Mr. E. V. Toeg's comments and queries in Bulletin No. 20 page 12 - 1 have attempted to be helpful as follows,

No. 1. This is CAYON.

No. 2. This is SANDY POINT, as also is **No. 3.** Small Circle ST. KITTS. SP. and vertical killer A 12. (Fig. 1.).

No. 4. A 12 Duplex upright Oval type with CDS St. Kitts C plus date, in small circle, is normal. (Fig 4).

No. 5, 6 and 7 also normal, Differing only in dates.

No. 8. The St. Kitts upright Oval duplex has 6 bars whereas the NEVIS duplex has eight. (Figs. 9 and 10).



Fig. 1

S P SANDY POINT
DB DIEPPE BAY
C A CAYON



Fig. 2

Single Circle

SANDY POINT



Fig. 3

Single Circle

BASSETTERRE or ANGUILLA



Fig. 4

N.B. St. Kitts 'C' in larger circle used without "killer" till about 1929 when the 'C' was replaced with a star. (Fig 6)



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

No. 8. (a) (b) (c). I am ashamed to say I do not know unless the letters indicate postal districts: these letters are all normal. St. Johns A only occurs in the double circle, plus bar, type (Figs. 5 and 7).

No. 8 (d). You are right.

No. 8 (e). Duplex stamps were used in Antigua A.02. Dominica A 07. Montserrat A 08, Tortola A 13, in addition to Nevis and St. Kitts. (Figs. 8, 9, 10, 11). Village marks - 1 have only seen these in St. Kitts in abbreviated form, in small circle, accompanied by the Killer A 12 upright oval.

No. 9. This is SANDY POINT.

No. 10 (f). Yes - as far as I know.

No. 10 (g). Not that I know of.

(Contributed by Mr. G. L. Pilkington, F.R.P.S.L.)

DUPLEX STAMPS



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10



Fig- 11

A02 ANTIGUA
A08 MONTSERRAT
A12 ST. KITTS

A07 DOMINICA
A09 NEVIS
A13 TORTOLA

ST. VINCENT

I have an ellipsoidal shape postmark on an early St. Vincent stamp (Scott 23) that baffles me. It is 14 mm. wide and 23 mm. high with "GB" in the upper part and "40c" in the lower, the two being separated by two parallel lines. Can anyone help ?

(Contributed by Mr. Robert Topaz.)

ST. VINCENT

The mark on St. Vincent adhesives on which Mr Topaz seeks information is one of the so-called "Currency Stamps" which were issued to a number of British Colonies in the 1860's and 1870's and were used for accountancy purposes between the British and French Postal Authorities. In the case of the St. Vincent stamp, this signified that 40 centimes were due to the French Post Office for conveying a half-ounce letter to this Country, or to Europe, by French Mailboat, 40 centimes being two-thirds of the current British half-ounce letter rate of 6d. The need for the stamp ceased in 1881 when St. Vincent joined the Universal Postal Union and the rate fell to twopence-halfpenny, but nevertheless it continued to be used in the 1880's apparently as an ordinary cancellation, instead of the A.10 or Kingston circular date stamp. It is quite a common mark on St. Vincent adhesives.

(Contributed by Mr. G. W. Groves.)

TRINIDAD

Colour Trials in the Surface Printed Britannia Design

With further reference to the subject of the note on p 57 of Bulletin No. 22, I can now add that for Trinidad 1906-09 Universal Colours Issue (SG 139a-145), colour trials were made in the 4d. value. I have examples of these 4d. colour trials in the issued colours of the 4d, 6d and 1/- values, on multiple Crown CA paper.

(Contributed by Mr. J. B. Marriott, F.R.P.S.L.)

RESEARCH LEADERS

Members will remember that the Research and Publications Sub-Committee appointed two years ago recommended that an effort should be made to find, for each of the colonies within the scope of the Study Circle, a Member willing and competent to act as Leader of research into the postal history and stamps of the colony, and to co-ordinate contributions from other Members. Fourteen Research loaders have now been appointed as follows :-

Antigua: G. W. Groves
Bahamas : A. J. Branston
Barbados : L. E. Britnor & B. B. Benwell
Bermuda : G. Bridgemore Brown
British Guiana (cancellations) P. W. Hosking
Grenada : B. E. Johnson
Jamaica: G. W. Collett & W. H. H. Crow
Montserrat : C. Hardeman Smith
Nevis : Miss Rose Titford
St. Christopher: Miss Rose Titford
St. Lucia: Dr. B. de Burea
St. Vincent: G. W. Groves
Tobago : A. E. Beach
Trinidad : B. Marriott

Any member, whether registered as interested in a particular colony or not, who has material likely to be of value for research, who possesses information likely to interest a Research Leader, or who would like to help in research work is invited to communicate with the appropriate Research Leader through the Hon. Secretary, who will willingly forward letters. Collectors interested in St. Lucia, Tobago and Trinidad are urgently wanted. Members willing to lead research work on colonies not mentioned above are also invited to communicate with the Hon. Secretary.

Do not fail to read the details of the varied material offered by our advertisers whose support much appreciated. If you have any 'wants' they would welcome a list of them, mentioning the B.W.I. Study Circle Bulletin.

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THE HON. SECRETARY'S PARAGRAPH

Quite a few members were more than surprised to receive the July Bulletin on time, and whilst our Editor played his part it is to our printers that high praise is due. During the few days preceding the nation-wide stoppage in which they, in common with so many other firms, were involved, it was a matter of 'all hands to the pump' and I know, in thanking them for their efforts, I did so on behalf of all our members. The following have enrolled as members since our last issue and, in extending to them a warm welcome, I also hope that they, like so many others, will derive much benefit from membership: B. R. Cameron (U.S.A.), J. L. Fredrick (U.S.A.), R. F. Partridge and P. A. Wilde. Many members will have already made a note to keep at least one day free in order to attend the London International Exhibition next year. Whilst this will, indeed, constitute the philatelic event of 1960 our Circle will also be in the news, since I have received an invitation from the Royal Philatelic Society for us to provide a display on Thursday March 24th, 1960. In due course I shall be getting in touch with a number of members to request them to contribute a few pages from their respective collections and it will be most helpful if all of you endeavour to keep that day free from all other philatelic engagements. There are still a good many members who have not returned the questionnaire form included with the July bulletin, and if you find a further form accompanying this issue do please complete and return it to me as soon as possible.

P. T. S.

MISCELLANEA

BULLETINS: Copies of back issues Nos. 8-22 are available at 2/6 each post free. Orders should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary accompanied by the appropriate remittance.

OPINIONS SERVICE: Facilities are available for opinion to be given on most stamps of the B.W.I. group. A fee of 1/- per stamp is charged and members wishing to avail themselves of this service should send the stamp(s) to the Hon. Secretary enclosing the requisite fee and a stamped addressed plain (or registered) envelope. Every endeavour will be made to return the stamp(s) within fourteen days.

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